

WISCONSIN LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION CONSORTIUM
135 Enterprise Drive, Suite 1D, Verona, WI 53593 Phone: 608-848-1907 www.WIID.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Leanne Ketterhagen
WLIC
608-848-5237
lketterhagen@wiid.org

Ben Brancel
FSA
608-662-4422
Ben.brancel@wi.usda.gov

On-Site Livestock Premises Registration Available at ALL FSA Offices

VERONA, WI (July 6, 2005) The Farm Service Agency (FSA), in partnership with the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) and the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), is making premises registration easy and convenient for livestock producers across the state. Computers, training manuals, literature, and trained FSA staff are now available at ALL county offices. A pilot project conducted with six counties was successful and now is implemented statewide.

“This partnership is an ideal situation for everyone involved. FSA looks forward to a continued and long lasting relationship between our partners and the farmers and ranchers of Wisconsin,” says Ben Brancel, state executive director of FSA.

The rules implementing the Wisconsin Livestock Premises Registration Act, requires that anyone who keeps, houses, or co-mingles livestock must register their premises effective November 1, 2005. The rule requires anyone with livestock not currently licensed by the department to register by January 1, 2006. Those entities currently licensed by the department must register by their license renewal date. WLIC is urging livestock owners and other keepers of livestock to register. Over 12,000 premises have been registered in advance of the mandatory registration date.

“Livestock” as defined by the livestock premises registration rules includes fish, bovine animals (bison and cattle), camelids (such as llamas and alpacas), farm-raised deer (including elk, moose, caribou, reindeer and the subfamily musk deer), equine (such as horses, donkeys, and mules), goats, poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, and guinea fowl), captive game birds, ratites (such as rheas, ostriches, emus, cassowaries, and kiwi), sheep, and swine.

This is the first of three major steps to implement the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in Wisconsin. The NAIS will help protect animal agriculture by providing livestock owners and animal health officials the infrastructure to reduce the financial and social impacts of potential animal disease outbreaks.

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